

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

| | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------------|
| (1) DEPARTMENT Public Works | (2) MEETING DATE 9/4/2012 | (3) CONTACT/PHONE Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works (805) 781-5252 | |
| (4) SUBJECT Public Works Strategic Planning. | | | |
| (5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is our recommendation that your Honorable Board receives presentations on Public Works Strategic Planning Efforts for discussion and provides direction that your Board deems appropriate. | | | |
| (6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A | (7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A | (8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A | (9) BUDGETED? N/A |
| (10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____) | | | |
| (11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | | | |
| (12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A | | (13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A | |
| (14) LOCATION MAP N/A | (15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No | (16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____ | |
| (17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <i>Nikki J. Schmidt</i> | | | |
| (18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts - | | | |

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Public Works
Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works
DATE: 9/4/2012
SUBJECT: Public Works Strategic Planning

RECOMMENDATION

It is our recommendation that your Honorable Board receives presentations on Public Works Strategic Planning Efforts for discussion and provides direction that your Board deems appropriate.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide your Board with a broad overview of several topics that involve strategic planning efforts by the Public Works Department.

The topics that will be covered by staff presentations are listed below. Some of the topics will provide previews of more detailed discussion and specific recommendations that staff will be presenting to your Board in the near future. Other topics reflect administrative and project management strategies that cover “internal business processes” and may be of interest to your Board.

Discussion Topics:

- Bridge/Pavement Management
- Sidewalk Maintenance
- Capital Project Delivery
- Special District Rates and Charges
- Water Resources
- Legislation
- APWA Accreditation and the Department’s Organizational Structure

Roads and Bridges

The staff presentation will provide a brief overview of “MAP 21” – the federal transportation funding legislation that was recently approved and entitled “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century.” MAP 21 provides two year funding that is consistent with historic levels. It consolidated nearly 100 programs, expands “categorical exemptions” on federal environmental review, and includes permit streamlining provisions as a few examples. The presentation will focus on the uncertainties that have developed as a result of MAP 21 on funding for “off-system” bridges which are an important component of the County’s bridge inventory.

The staff presentation will also provide an overview of the strategies being developed for a “tiered” approach to categorizing the road system, based primarily on “average daily trips,” for use in determining where asphalt overlay, other pavement preservation efforts, and maintenance will be focused under current economic conditions.

Sidewalk Maintenance

On May 22, 2012, your Board approved a letter opposing Assembly Bill 2231 (Fuentes) which sought to statutorily require the cost of sidewalk maintenance to be paid by local agencies. Under current law, and specifically Streets and Highway Code Section 5610, the owners of lots “shall maintain any sidewalk in such condition that the sidewalk will not endanger persons or property and maintain it in a condition which will not interfere with the public convenience.” The staff presentation will provide an update on AB 2231 (currently in “Suspense File”). We will also present the current status on developing a sidewalk maintenance program, consistent with existing law, including Streets and Highways Code 5610.

Capital Project Delivery

The staff presentation will review two aspects of capital project delivery that compel or require strategy development. Strategies associated with reviewing project change orders include early identification and resolution of contractor claims and issues associated with design errors and omissions. Secondly, post-construction regulatory mandates on projects will be covered including an update on the Central Coast Regional Water Boards pending action.

Special District Rates and Charges

Staff will provide an overview of the financial health of the Board governed special districts and then specifically cover a few that were identified as needing rate increases in the current years approved budget.

- County Service Area No. 7 provides wastewater treatment services in the Oak Shores Community of Lake Nacimiento and increasing operational costs of this aging system will require an analysis of the need to increase sewer rates for operations and infrastructure improvements. This work effort will be initiated in conjunction with recommendations to address risks related to the collection system.
- County Service Area No. 16 provides community water service for Shandon and recent decisions to develop its State Water turnout were made with the understanding that operating costs will need to include a rate study to address the increased operating costs as well as the current financial status of the District.
- Flood Control Zone 4 is a special benefit assessment area that pays for a share of the costs of the Santa Maria levee system. Recent efforts by Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (SBCFC&WCD) have increased Zone 4’s costs based on the existing levee maintenance agreement.

- Flood Control Zone 16 is a special benefit assessment area that maintains drainage basins in numerous neighborhoods primarily on the Nipomo Mesa. The assessments for each basin vary depending on if the basin was established before the passage of Proposition 218 and as a result, the adequacy in funding for some basins is better than others.

Water Resources

The focus of the water resource discussion is intended to be on interagency relations. Work efforts with the local Resource Conservation Districts are continuing to show benefits associated with “community service” albeit the “opportunities” may still be greater than what has been realized. Updates on work on creek vegetation maintenance programs, fish barrier identification and the recent recommendation by staff of the Department of Water Resources to fund our \$1.0 million Integrated Regional Water Management Planning grant will be presented by staff. In addition, discussion of interagency relations with other local water agencies, and advisory committees, will provide an opportunity to generally review current issues with your Board.

Legislation

Lastly, staff will provide an update on the Board’s current legislative platform relating to Public Works in addition to those stated above.

APWA Accreditation and the Department’s Organizational Structure

On October 4, 2011, your Board approved a contract with the American Public Works Association (APWA) in support of the Department’s recommendation to seek accreditation from APWA. In California, three counties have been accredited; Contra Costa County, Alameda County, and most recently, Orange County. The timeline provided under the APWA program is 3 years. It includes a self-assessment, which was completed prior to the accreditation contract, and is intended to be long-term in nature.

The APWA accreditation program overall is an important foundation for the Department’s strategic planning efforts because the process of accreditation includes comparing the Department’s procedures and policies to national industry standards, and pursuing excellence through accreditation is inherently consistent with strategic planning. The accreditation program is also flexible, and Public Works staff has identified objectives associated with “learning and growth”, “financial health”, and “customer service.” Finally, SWOC analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges) is also an important part of the strategic planning efforts.

The staff presentation will provide an overview of the Department’s response to the economy of the past several years and its effect on staff levels while also providing a brief discussion on what we anticipate in the next few years. Overall, the Department’s eight divisions are

Public Services Group
 Development Services
 Transportation
 Utilities

Capital Projects Group
 Design
 Construction
 Environmental
 Los Osos Wastewater Team

Internal Service Group
 Administrative Services
 Accounting and Budget

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Numerous agencies and advisory committees are involved with the strategy topics identified for discussion with your Board.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial impacts associated with the strategy discussions. Many of the individual topics have financial considerations which will be generally covered during the staff presentations.

RESULTS

Strategy discussions will enhance communications between your Board and staff and provide an opportunity for your Board to provide feedback and direction that promotes well governed communities.